

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DPW-01 IO-13 AID-05 DHA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ORM-02 EB-07 OMB-01

COME-00 /099 W

----- 042751

R 171102Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3478

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL UDORN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 26026

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR LA TH

SUBJ: REOPENING OF MUKDAHAN-SAVANNAKHET BORDER POINT

REF: VIENTIANE 2238

1. PRIME MINISTER SENI PRAMOT, IN HIS CAPACITY AS INTERIOR
MINISTER, SIGNED ORDER TO OPEN BORDER POINT WITH LAOS AT
MUKDAHAN SEPTEMBER 16, WITH SUBORDINATE OFFICIAL SIGNING
IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS DURING EMBOFF'S VISIT TO MINISTRY
FOLLOWING DAY. OPENING SHOULD TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY, IF
NOT SOONER (REFTEL). ALTHOUGH TRADE WILL PRESUMABLY BE UN-
CONTROLLED, MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE WILL BE VERY CAREFULLY CONTROLLED,
ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL. OPENING OF MUKDAHAN REPRESENTS AT
LEAST SMALL FORWARD STEP IN LAO-THAI RAPPROACHEMENT, IN OUR
VIEW.

2. QUESTION OF RELEASE OF THAI PRISONERS IN LAOS IS LESS
CLEAR. MFA SOURCE NOTED THAT LAO FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUANE
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SIPRASEUTH TOLD THAI AMBASSADOR SAWET KAMONLAPHUTI THAT PDRL

WOULD GIVE RTG "EVERYTHING IT PROMISED" DURING FOREIGN MINISTER PHICHAI RATTAKUN'S JULY 31-AUGUST 3 VISIT. MFA OFFICIAL NOTED THAT LAO CONTINUE TO REPLY THAT THEY ARE PREPARING LISTS OF PRISONERS TO GIVE THE THAI BUT HAVE PRODUCED NONE TO DATE. HE SAID MFA SENT MESSAGE TO AMBASSADOR SAWET TELLING HIM TO GIG THE LAO ON THIS MATTER, AT SAME TIME ADVISING THAT MUKDAHAN WOULD BE OPEN "APPROXIMATELY" SEPTEMBER 15. INTERIOR OFFICIAL SAID RTG EXPECTS THAT LAO WILL HAND OVER UNKNOWN NUMBER OF THAI PRISONERS AT NONG KHAI ONCE MUKDAHAN IS REOPENED. PLANS CALL FOR PRISONERS THEN TO BE INTERROGATED TO MAKE CERTAIN THEY ARE ALL THAI.

3. TIMING OF OPENING OF SECOND BORDER POINT -- PROBABLY CHIANG KHAN IN LOEI PROVINCE -- IS NOT YET CLEAR.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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